

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, EGEN, MARR, JA, US

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, MARCH 30, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - NICHOLAS PLATT

1. DISCLOSURE POLICY (SECRET)

THE NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY COMMITTEE (NDPC) HAS NOW
VOTED TO UPGRADE JAPAN TO NATO-LEVEL IN TWO IMPORTANT
MILITARY INFORMATION-SHARING CATEGORIES, RESEARCH AND DE-
VELOPMENT DATA AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION. THIS IS A
SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS MAKING JAPAN A FULL "FIRST CLASS
ALLY" AND IT REMOVES A LONG STANDING IRRITANT. THE NDPC
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ACTION CULMINATED A LONG AND DIFFICULT STRUGGLE DATING
FROM LAST SUMMER. WE HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION TO
THE MOVE ALONG THE WAY FROM THE MILITARY SERVICES, THE CIA
AND PENTAGON BUREAUCRATS, PEOPLE WHO WERE, FOR ONE REASON
OR ANOTHER, WARY OR DISTRUSTFUL OF EXTENDING TO JAPAN THE
SAME DEGREE OF MILITARY COOPERATION THAT WE DO TO NATO,
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. THE DISPUTE RAGED TO THE LAST

MINUTE WHEN WE HAD TO OVERCOME A JCS EFFORT TO INTRODUCE AN ADMINISTRATIVE DELAY. FORTUNATELY, THE POLICY MAKERS PREVAILED, BUTTRESSED BY EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD WITH HAROLD BROWN AND OTHERS. THIS UPGRADING SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARD IMPROVING AND ENHANCING MILITARY COOPERATION WITH JAPAN AND IS VERY TIMELY GIVEN THE IMMINENCE OF SEVERAL MAJOR COPRODUCTION PROJECTS (F-15, P-3C, POSSIBLY E-2C).

2. FOI CASE- WWII JAPANESE BW EFFORTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE HAVE PENDING A POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING FOI CASE CONCERNING JAPANESE BIOLOGICAL WARFARE EFFORTS IN CHINA IN WORLD WAR II, INCLUDING MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION ON "PRISONERS." THE MAIN QUESTION POSED BY THE DOCUMENTS IS WHY THE JAPANESE INVOLVED WERE NOT TRIED WITH OTHER WAR CRIMINALS AND THE ANSWER IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE LIMITED MATERIAL AVAILABLE. (THE RUSSIANS DID TRY AND CONVICT SEVERAL JAPANESE FROM THE UNIT WHO FELL INTO THEIR HANDS). THE DOCUMENTS DO SHOW THAT WE QUESTIONED THE JAPANESE AT SOME LENGTH REGARDING THEIR ACTIVITIES, AND MADE A DECISION NOT TO GRANT THEM IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF THE US SIDE CONSIDERED THE EVIDENCE INSUFFICIENT FOR PROSECUTION. THE HISTORY OF THIS JAPANESE BW UNIT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF UNFAVORABLE PRESS STORIES IN JAPAN, AND RELEASE OF THESE
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DOCUMENTS TO THE REQUESTOR (A CHINESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS GROUP) COULD BE EMBARRASSING, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT SERIOUSLY SO. THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE CAN LEGALLY, EVEN IF WE HAD GROUNDS, EXEMPT THE MATERIAL FROM DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE. THE MATERIAL IS OVER 30 YEARS OLD.

3. MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE GOJ HAS RECENTLY EXHIBITED SOME SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE CLAIMS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IN MOFA'S RECENTLY EXPRESSED POSITION THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE ANY MICRONESIAN CLAIMS DELEGATION WHICH WAS ROUTED TO TOKYO THROUGH WASHINGTON. (IT IS APPARENTLY IMPORTANT FOR GOJ POLITICAL PURPOSES TO HAVE THE MICRONESIANS APPEAR TO TAKE THEIR CASE TO WASHINGTON AFTER AN EXPECTED REBUFF IN TOKYO). WE HAVE MAINTAINED ALL ALONG THAT THE GOJ HAS FULLY DISCHARGED ALL OF ITS LEGAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE TTPI, BUT WE HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT THAT, IN VIEW OF US TRUSTEESHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR TTPI FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACILITATE A MICRONESIAN MISSION IF THE ISLANDERS SHOULD

INSIST ON SEEING THE JAPANESE. IF APPEARS THAT THE CURRENT GOJ PIQUE IS THE RESULT OF A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION AND WE HOPE TO STRAIGHTEN AT LEAST SOME OF THIS OUT WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR ARIMA ON MONDAY (4/3).

4. ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON COLOR TV CONFIDENTIAL

TREASURY PLANS TO MAIL BILLS TO IMPORTERS MARCH 31 FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON ABOUT TWO BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF COLOR TVS IMPORTED BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974. ADDITIONAL BILLS WILL BE SENT LATER TO COVER THE DUTIES UP THROUGH APRIL 1977. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS WORRIED THAT SUCH A LARGE BILL WILL DAMAGE THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE JAPANESE EXPORTERS.

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WHEN THE ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENT ON TVS WAS REACHED, WE ASSURED THE GOJ THAT WE WOULD LIQUIDATE PROMPTLY THE ASSESSMENTS ON TVS AFFECTED BY THE 1972 ANTIDUMPING CASE (I.E. PRESENT THE BILLS) AND WE WOULD INFORM THE JAPANESE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS, CUSTOMS DISCOVERED "SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES" IN THE DATA SUPPLIED BY JAPANESE FIRMS. THERE WERE INDICATIONS OF WIDESPREAD FALSE INVOICING AND ILLEGAL REBATES. ALSO, DATA ON JAPANESE MARKET PRICES OF ALLEGEDLY COMPARABLE TVS WAS JUDGED TO BE OF QUESTIONABLE RELIABILITY. CUSTOMS OBTAINED THE BEST INFORMATION IT COULD FROM U.S. SOURCES TO REPLACE THE JAPANESE-SUPPLIED DATA.

THE GOJ WANTS MORE TIME (A WEEK TO TEN DAYS) TO PRESENT MORE DATA TO CUSTOMS. TREASURY IS WORRIED THAT ANY FURTHER DELAY IN CARRYING OUT THE LAW WILL CAUSE DOMESTIC FIRMS TO TAKE TREASURY TO COURT AND OBTAIN A COURT ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW FORTHWITH.

MINISTER FUKADA SAW UNDERSECRETARY COOPER MARCH 30 TO REQUEST THAT HE ASK TREASURY TO HOLD OFF MAILING THE BILLS FOR A SHORT WHILE TO ENABLE THE GOJ TO ORGANIZE ITSELF TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ISSUE AND PREPARE COUNTERMEASURES. MR. COOPER AGREED TO SPEAK WITH TREASURY OFFICIALS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER TO PROCEED PROMPTLY TO LESSEN THE POSSIBILITY OF UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON FUKUDA VISIT. COOPER

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